

**Healthcare professionals urge European countries
to increase vaccination coverage and tackle misinformation**

The Coalition for Vaccination calls on European countries to upscale efforts to increase vaccination coverage and continue building on past achievements of vaccination in Europe. We are concerned that vaccination coverage in many European countries remains suboptimal due to vaccine hesitancy, vaccine shortages, misinformation and disinformation, and structural barriers to access within healthcare systems, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic.

European healthcare professionals and students welcome the European Commission's new EU Cardiovascular Health Plan which keeps vaccination on the EU agenda and confirms that vaccination against infections, such as influenza, SARS-CoV-2, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), pneumococcal disease, and herpes zoster, is a safe and effective measure to protect the European population. Moreover, one of the goals of the Commission's Europe's Beating Cancer Plan is still to eliminate cervical cancer by vaccinating young people against human papillomavirus (HPV).

The Coalition is concerned that the success of vaccine protection may be in danger. Losing protection could have dangerous consequences for individuals and population groups. Recent changes to vaccination recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States of America have led to confusion, distrust, and an increase in vaccine misinformation and disinformation. European countries and the EU must not make the same mistake.

We welcome the ongoing crucial work of the European Commission in supporting the national efforts of the Member States to increase vaccination coverage, in addition to collaborations with the European Centre for Disease Prevention (ECDC) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to:

- provide easily comprehensible information, and counter misinformation and disinformation,
- support national vaccination strategies based on scientific evidence,
- provide adequate education and continuing professional development for healthcare professionals,
- monitor the performance of immunisation programmes by means of internationally compatible and easily accessible immunisation information systems across healthcare settings,
- introduce a European digital vaccination card,
- improve the public understanding and transparency in vaccine approval processes, and
- strengthen independent, national and EU-wide vaccine safety surveillance.

In addition, the Coalition for Vaccination believes international cooperation and the role of the World Health Organization (WHO) remain crucial, including its recent intervention confirming that there is no evidence of a causal relationship between vaccines and autism spectrum disorder.^{1 2}

¹ [Statement of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety \(GACVS\) on vaccines and autism](#). WHO, 2025.

² Di Pietrantonj C. et al. [Vaccines for measles, mumps and rubella in children](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2021

The Coalition for Vaccination brings together European associations of healthcare professionals and students. It was convened by the European Commission in 2019 with an aim to support delivering accurate information to the public, combating myths around vaccines and vaccination, and exchanging best practices on vaccination.

Co-chairs

European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)
Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)
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European Medical Students' Association (EMSA)
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European Nursing Student Association (ENSA)
European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA)
European Specialist Nurses Association (ESNO)
European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO)
Europe Region World Physiotherapy (ER-WP)

Associated organisations

Active Citizenship Network (ACN)
Coalition for Life-Course Immunisation (CLCI)
EuroHealthNet
European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE)
European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH)
European Public Health Association (EUPHA)
Federation of European Academies of Medicines (FEAM)
Vaccine Safety Initiative (VIVI)

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